

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

### **Listing Of Claims:**

1. (previously presented) An article of manufacture comprising a monolithic composition formed by combining at least the following components: a polymer having a solubility in water below about 0.1% at 25.degree. C. and atmospheric pressure; a hydrophilic agent is at least about 10% by weight of the polymer and is selected from the group consisting of polyglycols poly(ethylene glycol), poly(propylene glycol), EVOH, pentaerithritol, PVOH, polyvinylpyrrolidone, vinylpyrrolidone or poly(N-methyl pyrrolidone), and saccharide based compounds, glucose, fructose and their alcohols, mannitol, dextrin, and hydrolized starch and mixtures thereof; and a releasing agent selected from the group consisting of pesticides, nematocides, fungicides and rodenticides;

wherein the composition comprises at least three phases and has interconnecting channels with the releasing agent in or adjacent to these channels.

2. (previously presented) The article of manufacture of claim 1 wherein the polymer is a thermoplastic.

3. (previously presented) The article of manufacture of claim 1, wherein the hydrophilic agent is a polyglycol.

4. (previously presented) An article of manufacture comprising a monolithic composition formed by combining at least the following components: a polymer having a solubility in water below about 0.1% at 25.degree. C. and atmospheric pressure; a hydrophilic agent is at least about 10% by weight of the polymer and is selected from the group consisting of polyglycols, poly(ethylene glycol), poly(propylene glycol), EVOH, pentaerithritol PVOH, polyvinylpyrrolidone, vinylpyrrolidone or poly(N-methyl pyrrolidone), and saccharide based compounds, glucose, fructose, and their alcohols, mannitol, dextrin, and hydrolized starch and mixtures thereof; and a releasing agent selected from the group consisting of fragrance, flavor and perfume sources;

wherein the composition comprises at least three phases and has interconnecting channels with the releasing agent in or adjacent to these channels.

5. (previously presented) The article of manufacture of claim 4 wherein the polymer is a thermoplastic.

6. (previously presented) The article of manufacture of claim 4 wherein the hydrophilic agent is a polyglycol.

7. (previously presented) An article of manufacture comprising a monolithic composition formed by combining at least the following components: a polymer having a solubility in

water below about 0.1% at 25.degree. C. and atmospheric pressure; a hydrophilic agent is at least about 10% by weight of the polymer and is selected from the group consisting of polyglycols, poly(ethylene glycol), poly(propylene glycol), EVOH, pentaerithritol, PVOH, polyvinylpyrrolidone, vinylpyrrolidone or poly(N-methyl pyrrolidone), and saccharide based compounds, glucose, fructose, and their alcohols, mannitol, dextrin, and hydrolized starch and mixtures thereof; and a releasing agent selected from the group consisting of antimicrobial, corrosion inhibitors, ripening and antiripening agents;

wherein the composition comprises at least three phases and has interconnecting channels with the releasing agent in or adjacent to these channels.

8. (previously presented) The article of manufacture of claim 7 wherein the polymer is a thermoplastic.

9. (previously presented) The article of manufacture of claim 7 wherein the hydrophilic agent is a polyglycol.

10. (previously presented) An article of manufacture comprising a monolithic composition formed by combining at least the following components: a polymer having a solubility in water below about 0.1% at 25.degree. C. and atmospheric pressure; a hydrophilic agent having a solubility in water above about 1% at 25.degree. C. and atmospheric pressure and is at least about 10% by weight of the polymer; and a releasing agent selected from the group consisting of pesticides, nematocides, fungicides and rodenticides;

wherein the composition comprises at least three phases and having interconnecting channels with the releasing agent in or adjacent to these channels.

11. (previously presented) The article of manufacture of claim 10 wherein the polymer is a thermoplastic.

12. (previously presented) The article of manufacture of claim 10 wherein the hydrophilic agent is a polyglycol.

13. (previously presented) An article of manufacture comprising a monolithic composition formed by combining at least the following components: a polymer having a solubility in water below about 0.1% at 25.degree. C. and atmospheric pressure; a hydrophilic agent having a solubility in water above about 1% at 25.degree. C. and atmospheric pressures and is at least about 10% by weight of the polymer; and a releasing agent selected from the group consisting of fragrance, flavor and perfume sources;

wherein the composition comprises at least three phases and having interconnecting channels with the releasing agent in or adjacent to these channels.

14. (previously presented) The article of manufacture of claim 13 wherein the polymer is a thermoplastic.

15. (previously presented) The article of manufacture of claim 13 wherein the hydrophilic agent is a polyglycol.

16. (previously presented) An article of manufacture comprising a monolithic composition formed by combining at least the following components: a polymer having a solubility in water below about 0.1% at 25.degree. C. and atmospheric pressure; a hydrophilic agent having a solubility in water above about 1% at 25.degree. C. and atmospheric pressure and is at least about 10% by weight of the polymer; and a releasing agent selected from the group consisting of antimicrobial, corrosion inhibitors ripening and antiripening agents;

wherein the composition comprises at least three phases and having interconnecting channels with the releasing agent in or adjacent to these channels.

17. (previously presented) The article of manufacture of claim 16 wherein the polymer is a thermoplastic.

18. (previously presented) The article of manufacture of claim 16 wherein the hydrophilic agent is a polyglycol.

19. (previously presented) An article of manufacture comprising a monolithic composition comprising at least the following components:

(a) a polymer having a solubility in water below about 0.1% at 25.degree. C. and atmospheric pressure;

(b) a hydrophilic agent is at least about 10% by weight of the polymer and is selected from the group consisting of polyglycols, poly(ethylene glycol), poly(propylene glycol), EVOH, pentaerithritol, PVOH, polyvinylpyrrolidone, vinylpyrrolidone or poly(N-methyl pyrrolidone), and saccharide based compounds, glucose, fructose, and their alcohols, mannitol, dextrin, and hydrolized starch and mixtures thereof; and

(c) a releasing agent selected from the group consisting of pesticides, nematocides, fungicides and rodenticides;

wherein the composition comprises at least three phases and has interconnecting channels with the releasing agent in or adjacent to these channels.

20. (previously presented) The article of manufacture of claim 19 wherein the polymer is a thermoplastic.

21. (previously presented) The article of manufacture of claim 19 wherein the hydrophilic agent is a polyglycol.

22. (previously presented) An article of manufacture comprising a monolithic

composition comprising at least the following components:

(a) a polymer having a solubility in water below about 0.1% at 25.degree. C. and atmospheric pressure;

(b) a hydrophilic agent is at least about 10% by weight of the polymer and is selected from the group consisting of polyglycols, poly(ethylene glycol), poly(propylene glycol), EVOH, pentaerithritol, PVOH, polyvinylpyrrolidone, vinylpyrrolidone or poly(N-methyl pyrrolidone), and saccharide based compounds glucose, fructose, and their alcohols, mannitol, dextrin, and hydrolized starch and mixtures thereof; and

(c) a releasing agent selected from the group consisting of fragrance, flavor and perfume sources;

wherein the composition comprises at least three phases and has interconnecting channels with the releasing agent in or adjacent to these channels.

23. (previously presented) The article of manufacture of claim 22 wherein the polymer is a thermoplastic.

24. (previously presented) The article of manufacture of claim 22 wherein the hydrophilic agent is a polyglycol.

25. (previously presented) An article of manufacture comprising a monolithic composition comprising at least the following components:

(a) a polymer having a solubility in water below about 0.1% at 25.degree. C. and atmospheric pressure;

(b) a hydrophilic agent is at least about 10% by weight of the polymer and is selected from the group consisting of polyglycols, poly(ethylene glycol), poly(propylene glycol), EVOH, pentaerithritol, PVOH, polyvinylpyrrolidone, vinylpyrrolidone or poly(N-methyl pyrrolidone), and saccharide based compounds, glucose, fructose, and their alcohols, mannitol, dextrin, and hydrolized starch and mixtures thereof; and

(c) a releasing agent selected from the group consisting of antimicrobial, corrosion inhibitors, ripening and antiripening agents;

wherein the composition comprises at least three phases and has interconnecting channels with the releasing agent in or adjacent to these channels.

26. (previously presented) The article of manufacture of claim 25 wherein the polymer is a thermoplastic.

27. (previously presented) The article of manufacture of claim 25 wherein the hydrophilic agent is a polyglycol.

28. (previously presented) An article of manufacture comprising a monolithic composition comprising at least the following components:

- (a) a polymer having a solubility in water below about 0.1% at 25.degree. C. and atmospheric pressure;
- (b) a hydrophilic agent having a solubility in water above about 1% at 25.degree. C. and atmospheric pressure and is at least about 10% by weight of the polymer; and
- (c) a releasing agent selected from the group consisting of pesticides, nematocides, fungicides and rodenticides;

wherein the composition comprises at least three phases and having interconnecting channels with the releasing agent in or adjacent to these channels.

29. (previously presented) The article of manufacture of claim 28 wherein the polymer is a thermoplastic.

30. (previously presented) The article of manufacture of claim 28 wherein the hydrophilic agent is a polyglycol.

31. (previously presented) An article of manufacture comprising a monolithic composition comprising at least the following components:

- (a) a polymer having a solubility in water below about 0.1% at 25.degree. C. and atmospheric pressure;
- (b) a hydrophilic agent having a solubility in water above about 1% at 25.degree. C. and atmospheric pressure and is at least about 10% by weight of the polymer; and
- (c) a releasing agent selected from the group consisting of fragrance, flavor and perfume sources;

wherein the composition comprises at least three phases and having interconnecting channels with the releasing agent in or adjacent to these channels.

32. (previously presented) The article of manufacture of claim 31 wherein the polymer is a thermoplastic.

33. (previously presented) The article of manufacture of claim 31 wherein the hydrophilic agent is a polyglycol.

34. (previously presented) An article of manufacture comprising a monolithic composition comprising at least the following components:

- (a) a polymer having a solubility in water below about 0.1% at 25.degree. C. and atmospheric pressure;
- (b) a hydrophilic agent having a solubility in water above about 1% at 25.degree. C. and atmospheric pressure and is at least about 10% by weight of the polymer; and
- (c) a releasing agent selected from the group consisting of antimicrobial, corrosion inhibitors ripening and antiripening agents;

wherein the composition comprises at least three phases and having interconnecting channels with the releasing agent in or adjacent to these channels.

35. (previously presented) The article of manufacture of claim 34 wherein the polymer is a thermoplastic.

36. (previously presented) The article of manufacture of claim 34 wherein the hydrophilic agent is a polyglycol.

37 –42 (cancelled).

43 (presently amended). ~~The article of manufacture of claim 37~~ An article of manufacture comprising a monolithic composition comprising at least the following components:

- \_\_\_\_\_ a water-insoluble polymer;
- \_\_\_\_\_ a releasing material selected from the group consisting of biologically active ingredients, wherein the releasing material is composed of a particle and the particle is at least about 10% by weight of the polymer;
- \_\_\_\_\_ an agent that acts as a transmission bridge between an exterior of the polymer and the interiorly located releasing material and wherein the agent is hydrophilic, wherein the affinity between the agent and the releasing material is greater than between the polymer and the releasing material; and
- \_\_\_\_\_ wherein the composition comprises an interconnecting channel composed of the agent.

44 (presently amended). ~~The article of manufacture of claim 38,~~ An article of manufacture comprising a monolithic composition comprising at least the following components:

- \_\_\_\_\_ a water- insoluble polymer;
- \_\_\_\_\_ a releasing material selected from the group consisting of antimicrobials, wherein the releasing material is composed of a particle and the particle is at least about 10% by weight of the polymer;
- \_\_\_\_\_ an agent that acts as a transmission bridge between an exterior of the polymer and the interiorly located releasing material and wherein the agent is hydrophilic, wherein the affinity between the agent and the releasing material is greater than between the polymer and the releasing material; and
- \_\_\_\_\_ wherein the composition comprises an interconnecting channel composed of the agent.

45 (presently amended). ~~The article of manufacture of claim 39,~~ An article of manufacture comprising a monolithic composition comprising at least the following components:

\_\_\_\_\_ a water-insoluble polymer;  
\_\_\_\_\_ a releasing material selected from the group consisting of aromatic medicines,  
wherein the releasing material is composed of a particle and the particle is at least about 10% by weight of the polymer;  
\_\_\_\_\_ an agent that acts as a transmission bridge between an exterior of the polymer and the interiorly located releasing material and wherein the agent is hydrophilic, wherein an affinity between the agent and the releasing material is greater than between the polymer and the releasing material; and  
\_\_\_\_\_ wherein the composition comprises an interconnecting channel composed of the agent

46 – 54 (cancelled)

55 (presently amended). ~~The article of manufacture of claim 49,~~ An article of manufacture comprising a monolithic composition formed by combining at least the following components:

\_\_\_\_\_ a water-insoluble polymer;  
\_\_\_\_\_ a releasing material selected from the group consisting of biologically active ingredients, wherein the releasing material is composed of a particle and the particle is at least about 10% by weight of the polymer;  
\_\_\_\_\_ an agent that controls the transmission between an exterior of the polymer and the interiorly located releasing material and wherein the agent is hydrophilic, wherein an affinity between the agent and the releasing material is greater than between the polymer and the releasing material; and  
\_\_\_\_\_ wherein the composition comprises an interconnecting channel composed of the agent.

56 (presently amended). ~~The article of manufacture of claim 50~~ An article of manufacture comprising a monolithic composition formed by combining at least the following components:

\_\_\_\_\_ a water- insoluble polymer;  
\_\_\_\_\_ a releasing material selected from the group consisting of antimicrobials, wherein the releasing material is composed of a particle and the particle is at least about 10% by weight of the polymer;  
\_\_\_\_\_ an agent that controls the transmission between an exterior of the polymer and the interiorly located releasing material and wherein the agent is hydrophilic, wherein an affinity between the agent and the releasing material is greater than between the polymer and the releasing material; and  
\_\_\_\_\_ wherein the composition comprises an interconnecting channel composed of the agent.

57 (presently amended). ~~The article of manufacture of claim 51,~~ An article of manufacture comprising a monolithic composition formed by combining at least the following components:

\_\_\_\_\_ a water-insoluble polymer;

\_\_\_\_\_ a releasing material selected from the group consisting of aromatic medicines, wherein the releasing material is composed of a particle and the particle is at least about 10% by weight of the polymer;

\_\_\_\_\_ an agent that controls the transmission between an exterior of the polymer and the interiorly located releasing material, wherein an affinity between the agent and the releasing material is greater than between the polymer and the releasing material; and

\_\_\_\_\_ wherein the composition comprises an interconnecting channel composed of the agent, wherein the agent is hydrophilic.

58 –60 (cancelled)